



AMANDA & MAX FETISOV

Serving the people of Ukraine

As I reflect on this past month, I keep thinking about the quiet, faithful ways God is at work. I want to share one story that captures both the challenges and the hope we see orphans facing every day here in Ukraine.

Anya's Story: A Journey Toward Independence

I met Anya about ten years ago during one of our life skills classes at the dorm of her technical school. She has endured many hardships—she was orphaned at a young age, has several serious medical issues, and was often bullied growing up. Yet, despite all of this, Anya has always had a hopeful, cheerful, and friendly spirit.

After finishing her studies, she tried to live on her own and work, but she simply couldn't earn enough to support herself. Knowing we could help, she came to us and has been living in our center for a few years. She is one of the hardest workers I know, working two jobs as a confectioner and baker while trying to save for her own place. She often bikes to work just to save on transportation costs.

Recently, she faced a major financial setback when she discovered she needed extensive and expensive dental work. Thanks to a special donor, she received much-needed relief. If anyone will reach their goal of living independently, it is Anya. We are so proud of her.



Why Relationships Matter

It's because of our initial contact with Anya through one of our classes that we are able to be there for her today. Every week, our team visits dormitories and children's homes for this very reason. The lessons are important, but even more important are the relationships and trust we build with these kids and teens. They know they can turn to us when they need help.

Not every story turns out like Anya's, but even if just one does, it is worth it.

About \$150 a month of your giving helps support these weekly visits—covering travel, craft supplies, and small treats for the students. Our team is so committed that we even go when the electricity is out, using flashlights so the kids can see during crafts.

Every week, when the lesson ends, they ask the same question: “When will you be back?” Knowing the deep sense of abandonment many of them carry, it is vital for them to have consistent, faithful adults in their lives.



Doing crafts by flashlight

A Difficult January and a Steadfast Hope

I won't sugarcoat it—January has been one of the most difficult months we've experienced. The blackouts have worsened, with only about 1.5 hours of electricity during daylight hours. As I'm writing this, missiles and drones are hitting both civilian and critical infrastructure in our city almost daily. They are flying so low now that our air defense cannot always detect them.

February will mark four years since the start of this war—longer than World War II. When prayers seem unanswered and there is no relief in sight, I return to a practice God called Israel to: remembering the works of the Lord. I go over in my mind His past faithfulness, the times I thought there was no way forward, yet He sustained me. One day, this season will be a distant memory, and I will declare His goodness in it all.

I encourage you to do the same with whatever you are facing.

Thank you for walking with us through this journey. Your prayers, generosity, and encouragement mean more than I can express.